

IN THE CLAIMS:

Delete the heading "CLAIMS" and insert the heading

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

A 9. (Amended) The filter according to claim 1, wherein each filtering element is obtained with a process according to one or more of the claims of the international patent application WO 00/69542.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Delete the improper second paragraph of the Abstract containing the parenthetical phrase "~~(Figure 4)~~".

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